[136 cont.]

Mn 194 These consonants are primarily k, t, and p. [137] The preceding vowel, too, however, does not always remain unchanged; for example, an a preceding t becomes è, and when it precedes p, it becomes o; thus, amat, "much," becomes amè, sarap, "fine dust, motes," becomes saro, etc. We need not summarize the form changes that the other vowels undergo in the same way as the a. We are only concerned here with the final consonant. By dropping the final consonants k, t, and p, the last syllable becomes an open one. It is not completely open, however, because it is closed in a way by making the vowel that precedes the final consonant, or the vowel that replaces or lengthens it, very short, swallowing it, as it were (1).

1. Ind. Gids, 1881, Vol. I, p. 764.

Dr. van der Tuuk looks at it this way, that the final consonant is replaced by a half-pronounced, a swallowed k, which he wants to represent by q, thus amèq, anaq, saroq.

The s likewise is not pronounced by the Minangkabau, but is replaced by a softly aspirated h, whereby the preceding vowel undergoes change in certain cases; for example, the a becomes è, thus amas = gold, amèh, bětis = shinbone, batèh. The r and l are not heard at all, or, according to this informant, they are changed into a softly rolled r, thus bĕsar = large, basa, akal = ruse, aka. Only the nasals remain as final letters, for example, kĕring = dry, [illegible]ring. As final letters, apart from the words ending in vowels, there are only the h, the softly rolled r, the half-swallowed k, and the nasal.

Mn MK 194 We find something similar among the Makassarese and Buginese, but to an even greater extent. When we compare Makassarese and Buginese with the related languages in the archipelago, we see that the identical words that end in a consonant in the latter languages do not have this consonant in the former. In the first place, the Makassarese and Buginese, like the Minangkabau Malays, have dropped the pronunciation

MK [137 cont.]
MN of the k, t, and p, and consequently that of the g, d, and b, at
194 the end of a word. [138] They are simply omitted, thus: langit = sky, langi; atap = roof covering, âta; anak = child, ana. Here, too, the last syllable is open, but again it is closed in a way by the peculiar pronunciation of the vowel, which falls off. Dr. Matthes says this is extremely difficult for an European, because it is done by partly blowing the breath out and then slightly breathing in again. Mr. Matthes proposes to indicate this peculiar pronunciation by a small vertical mark over the final vowel, thus langi, atá, âná. Mr. van der Tuuk, however, regards this pronunciation, as we have seen, as a swallowed k and wants to write langiq, âtaq, and ânaq. Furthermore, Dr. Matthes makes a distinction between soft and hard final consonants.

MK The Makassarese and Buginese also avoid the l, r, and s,
194 in their pronunciation, for example: tutur = to talk, tutu; guntur = thunder, guntu; lĕpas = loose, lapa. Often, they add a vowel as an ending following the r, l, and s in order to avoid pronouncing them at the end, for example: ipar = îparâ (or îparăq), bĕras = rice, bĕrasâ; bijar = to permit, bijarâ; lĕpas = loose, lĕpasâ; guntur = thunder, gunturu; bĕdil = gun, badilĭ. Again, only the nasals are retained, but here, too, there is some limitation. In words that end in m or n in the related languages, the letters are changed to ng in Makassarese and Buginese, thus: djam = shh! = djang; ringan = light, rîngang. To summarize, the following is evident: 1. in comparing the Makassarese and Buginese languages with the related languages of the archipelago, we see that the words that are identical and end in k, t, or p in the other languages occur in these without the k, t, or p, but that the preceding vowel, which is then open, is pronounced more or less closed; 2. that words ending in r, l, and s in the other languages occur sometimes in Makassarese and Buginese without the r, l, or s, but in most cases the r, l, and s have been retained and are followed by a vowel, which likewise is pronounced more or less closed; finally, that the words ending in a nasal sound in related languages always have the gutteral-nasal

Javanese OE5 Makassar OG6
Batak OD5 Minangkabau OD12
Nias OD11
Malagasy FY2

[138 cont.]

MK 194 sound ng in Makassarese. This limitation on the use of the final consonant holds for all words, even [139] for those that are exclusively Makassarese or Buginese.

MK MN 194 The Minangkabau language, and even more Makassarese and Buginese, thus have only a few consonants as final letters: Minangkabau has the h as a softly rolled r, the Buginese and Makassarese the gutteral nasal sound ng, and both have the peculiar, more or less articulated vowel, the half-swallowed k of Dr. van der Tuuk. We can call these languages semi-vocalic languages. There are only two definitely vocalic languages, Mal. N [194] languages that only have words ending in vowels, in the Malayan branch, Malagasy and Niassan. There may be more, but at the moment only these two are known. Niassan is still too little known for us to understand how the vocalism developed in it. In Malagasy, however, by comparing it with related languages, we see how the identical words that end in a consonant in the principal languages occur in Malagasy without this consonant or it is followed by a consonant [sic], for example: tandjung = corner, tangu; minjak = oil, mina; mipis = thin, mifi; anak = child, ganaka; masak = ripe, masaka; tahun = year, tauna, etc. Thus, we have a phenomenon here analogous to the Makassarese and Buginese languages, namely, the addition of a vowel after the final consonant as a means of making a word vocalic.

I 194 The remaining languages of the archipelago, Malay, Javanese, Batak, Dajak, Tagalog, Bisayan and other Philippine languages, the Alfoer of the Minahasa, etc., have as many consonants as vowels for the final letter of words. In Javanese, for J 194 212 example, all the consonants can be final letters, except the semivowels w and j, the palatal letters ꦕ tj and ꦗ dj and the lingual letters ꦝ d and ꦠ t; in Malay, too, all except the ꦗ dj ꦕ tj and ꦚ nj, besides ꦁ ng, but in Batak Bt again only the hard consonants k, t, and p, the nasal ng, n, and I 194 m, and the trills r and l, and in the Dairic specifically the h

I J 212 114 [153 cont:]
missions to Bali, Sumatra, and various parts of Java. He interpreted a number of inscriptions more or less accurately, on which other later scholars could build further. Among others, these were Dr. Cohen Stuart, Dr. van Limburg Brouwer, and Mr. Holle. In 1882 the last-mentioned published a table of old and new Malayan alphabets. Malayan paleography, however, owes its greatest debt to Professor Kern of Leiden. He not only subjected the work of his predecessors, particularly that of Friedrich, to thorough criticism and thereby made many corrections, but he himself deciphered a number of inscriptions, some of them of the utmost importance. We want to call attention to the one of Pelarang, Kutei (southeast Borneo), in particular. Although the inscription on this stone does not bear a date, according to Professor Kern it cannot be later than the fifth century, an opinion based primarily on the form of the characters. This specimen is not only important for paleography but also for history, since it shows how early Hindu civilization was flourishing in Kutei. The oldest inscription, bearing the date 654 Çaka = 732 A.D., was found on Java. It is in Sanskrit and was deciphered by Professor Kern.

The script, at least of the old inscriptions, at first sight shows little similarity to any present-day script. Nevertheless some connection exists between the old and the new script, but more about this later.

All the present forms of alphabetic writing mutually show some strongly pronounced features. To illustrate this with a few examples, they all have one important point in common, J MK B 212 194 [154] that the vowel a is inherent in each consonant, whereas the other vowels are indicated by additional signs.

The consonants are very peculiarly called "mother of the script"; the vowels, "children of the script." In Batak these names are ina ni surat, anak ni surat; in Makassarese, anrong lontârâ and ana lontârâ; in Buginese, indo surâ and ana surâ.

If a word ends in a consonant, then the a sound is taken from the consonant by a special sign, the "vowel killer." In

J M B 212 194 [154 cont.]

Javanese, for example, it is the , the patèn Ng., or pangkon Kr. Such a sign, however, is lacking in Makassarese and Buginese, because both languages, as we have seen, are semi-vocalic, that is, they have only a single consonant as a final letter of a word and that is ng. If the words do not end in ng, but in a vowel, then in some cases this is pronounced partially closed. In any case, since consonants do not occur as final letters in the languages named, a sign like the patèn is unnecessary. For instance, one cannot know by looking at kapasă = to hit, to touch, whether it should be pronounced with the nasal at the end, like kapasang, which could very well be the case; however, it would then have no meaning. In this respect, the Makassarese and Buginese languages are somewhat incomplete. The languages of the Philippines show this even more. They are completely consonantal, like Javanese, Batak, etc. Inasmuch as most of the consonants can be final letters. There is no patèn in them, however, the final consonant is simply not written and one has to guess at them. For example, the Bisayan word for cotton is gapas, but it is written in the native characters as gapa, without sa = s. While the script of Bisayan, Tagalog, etc. is very incomplete in this respect, it is also incomplete concerning the vowel signs. The scripts have only two such signs, a point above and a point below the letter, the former for the i and e, the latter for o and u. Apart from these two exceptions, however, one can say that the alphabetic writing of the archipelago can express fully what they are supposed to express. [155] One never need stand in doubt, as is the case for the non-vocalized Arabic, about how to pronounce the words as far as vowels are concerned.

R-L [212 194]

There is a drawback, however, in the custom of not writing the words separately, but linked together, which often makes reading very difficult. This is done not only by the Batak, the Redjang, and the Lampong, but also by the Javanese.

I 212 175

Besides these points of similarity, we encounter others, in particular those shown by the form of the letters. Although